

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OIC-01

SP-03 OES-02 IOE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00 L-01 /051 W

----- 077955

P R 271455Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8340

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 298

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0422

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROF, PDIP, WMO, SZ, VS, VN, FI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED "PRG"OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS

REF: A) STATE 041918 B) HELSINKI 0133 (C) HELSINKI 0251

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD MADE EARLIER APPROACH TO MFA ON PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS (REF. B) AND WAS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW FINNISH POLICY OF SUPPORTING PRG ATTENDANCE AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHERE RVN REPRESENTED, FIRST FOLLOWED AT LOW CONFERENCE, IN FACT SET THE POLICY FOR SAME QUESTION AT ANY OTHER CONFERENCES, WE CHECKED WITH MFA AND WERE INFORMED THAT FINLAND ON THE 12TH OF FEBRUARY SENT IN ITS BALLOT SUPPORTING PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO CONGRESS.

2. IT IS QUITE CLEAR TO US THAT AS THINGS STAND NOW, FINLAND WIL IN FACT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRG ATTENDANCE AT INERNATIONAL CONGRESSES WHERE RVN IS REPRESENTED. WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING
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FINLAND'S POLICY ON THIS MATTER.

3. MORE IMMEDIATE QUESTION IN THIS CONNECTION IS WHAT, IF ANYTHING, USG SHOULD TRY TO DO TO AVERT FURTHER GOF MOVES FAVORING PRG SUCH AS ELEVATION OF THE STATUS OF THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI OR FORMAL RECOGNITION OF PRG.

4. IT WOULD SEEM THAT OUR TRADITIONAL APPROACH OF MAKING DEMARCHES AND EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN STRICTLY THROUGH REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IN HELSINKI AND WASHINGTON HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. WE ARE AFRAID THAT IF THE FINNS DO NOT NEED TO FEAR ANYTHING MORE THAN A QUIET ONE-TIME DIPLOMATIC RAP ON THE KNUCKLES THEY WILL NOT BE CONSTRAINED TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY.

5. WE THEREFORE SEEM TO BE FACED WITH THREE GENERAL OPTIONS FOR RESPONSES TO FINNISH ACTIONS. ONE IS TO CONTINUE TO RESTRICT OURSELVES TO MAKING DIPLOMATIC DEMARCHES IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH OUR OBJECTIVES. ANOTHER IS TO RAISE THE PROSPECT THAT FURTHER FINNISH ACTIONS IN THIS DIRECTION WILL LEAD TO AT LEAST A SERIOUS AND POSSIBLY PUBLIC QUESTIONING OF THE CONTINUED CREDIBILITY OF FINLAND'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY. A THIRD OPTION COULD BE DEMANDING EQUAL TREATMENT FOR THE RVN IN ALL RESPECTS AND IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO HELSINKI INFORMATION OFFICE. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE RVN WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BY IN FACT BEING READY TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI, TO EXCHANGE VISITS WITH FINLAND, ETC. WE ARE NOT RECOMMENDING THAT THIS OPTION BE IMPLEMENTED, BUT DO WISH TO RAISE IT FOR DEPT.'S CONSIDERATION WHEN DECIDING ON WHAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE U.S. RESPONSE WILL BE IF GOF CONTINUES FAVOR PRG. WHATEVER THE DECISION IS, IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT THE DEPT. AND EMBASSY NOT ONLY DO BUT ALSO APPEAR TO BE WORKING CLOSELY IN TANDEM ON THIS QUESTION. WE THEREFORE DO NOT PROPOSE TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION UNTIL RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, OPPOSITION TO ADMISSION, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING OBSERVERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN00422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0662
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975028/aaaaagme.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 041918, 75 HELSINKI 0133, 75 HELSINKI 0251
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED "PRG"OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SZ, VS, VN, FI, WMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006